

What is claimed is:

Sub a 1. A method for using a collaborative commerce application to provide a user with information associated with a first component that is part of a second component of a fluid processing plant, comprising:

displaying a graphical model of the second component on a display at a client site, wherein the first component is included in the graphical model, and wherein data used to display the graphical model is stored at a central site in a computer aided design format;

providing the user with the ability to select a portion of the graphical model that is associated with the first component; and

displaying the information associated with the first component on the display, wherein the information associated with the first component is stored at the central site.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying a graphical model comprises displaying a three-dimensional graphical model.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the information comprises displaying information selected from a group consisting of a graphical model, a three-dimensional graphical model, text, a bill of materials, and any combination thereof.

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4. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying a graphical model comprises displaying a three-dimensional graphical model and wherein displaying the information comprises displaying a two-dimensional schematic.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the user with the ability to edit the information.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the user with the ability to redline the information.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the user with the ability to edit the graphical model.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the user with the ability to redline the graphical model.

9. A method for using a collaborative commerce application to collaboratively review fluid processing plant designs, comprising:

linking at least two clients that are located in different locations using a central site; providing the clients with the ability to change the fluid processing plant designs using a user interface; and

displaying changes that are made by one of the clients on displays of all of the clients simultaneously.

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10. The method of claim 9 further comprising providing the clients with the ability to redline the fluid processing plant designs using the user interface.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising notifying appropriate parties of redlines made to the fluid processing plant designs.

12. The method of claim 10 further comprising displaying redlines that are made by one of the clients on the displays of all of the clients simultaneously.

13. The method of claim 9 further comprising notifying appropriate parties of changes made to the fluid processing plant designs.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the notifying is selected from a group consisting of emailing, instant messaging, posting a message to a discussion group, and any combination thereof.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein the linking comprises using the Internet to couple the clients to the central site.

16. A method for using a collaborative commerce application for searching for a particular component for use in a fluid processing plant, comprising:

associating the component with particular metadata attributes;

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displaying a graphical model of the component;

allowing a user to select the graphical model;

performing a search of a component database using the metadata attributes associated with the component; and

dynamically creating a search menu using the metadata attributes.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising providing the user with the ability to search based on a basis selected from a group consisting of category, site part number, supplier part number, manufacturer part number, supplier, keyword, and any combination thereof.

18. The method of claim 16 further comprising providing the user with the ability to choose which metadata attributes to use as search criteria from the search menu.

19. The method of claim 16 further comprising displaying search results using fields based on metadata attributes.

20. A method for using a collaborative commerce application for performing a dynamic pricing event for a component for use in a fluid processing plant, comprising:

providing a requisitioner with the ability to prepare a requisition for the component;

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communicating the requisition to an approver who is given the ability to approve the requisition;

communicating the requisition to a buyer who is given the ability select a form for the dynamic pricing event, wherein the requisition was approved; and

communicating the approved requisition to bidders.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising providing the requisitioner, the approver, and the buyer to attach files to the requisition.

22. The method of claim 20 further comprising providing the bidders with the ability to submit bids.

23. The method of claim 22 further comprising making information submitted by a particular bidder available to other bidders.

24. The method of claim 22 further comprising making limited information submitted by a particular bidder available to other bidders.

25. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

providing the approver with the ability to add notes to the requisition; and

communicating the notes together with the requisition to the buyer.

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26. The method of claim 20 further comprising communicating the requisition to an approver who is given the ability to reject the requisition.

27. The method of claim 26 further comprising:

providing the approver with the ability to specify reasons for rejecting the requisition; and communicating the reasons together with the rejection to the requisitioner.

28. The method of claim 20 further comprising determining which bidders to send requisitions based on at least one project profile.

29. The method of claim 20 wherein the form is selected from a group consisting of a request for quote, a reverse auction, or any combination thereof.

30. The method of claim 20 further comprising providing requisition change capabilities.

31. A method for using a collaborative commerce application to allow a user to certify a manufacturer for use in the procurement of materials for a fluid processing plant, comprising:

compiling certification information at a central site;

providing the user with the ability to review the certification information; and

providing the user with the ability to select the manufacturer as a possible source of some or all of the materials.

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32. The method of claim 31 wherein compiling certification information comprises compiling information selected from the group consisting of fabrication history, code stamps, employee training records, customer satisfaction records, inspectors' notes, videos and images, quality assurance practices, and any combination thereof.

33. The method of claim 31 further comprising providing the user with the ability to request other information other than what is available at the central site.

34. The method of claim 31 wherein providing the user with the ability to review the certification information comprises displaying video related to the manufacturer on a display.

35. The method of claim 31 wherein providing the user with the ability to review the certification information comprises providing the user with the ability to perform searches of ongoing projects in which the manufacturer was involved such that the manufacturer's progress is seen.

36. The method of claim 31 further comprising notifying the user of any quality incidents that occur at the manufacturer's facility.

37. The method of claim 31 wherein the notifying is accomplished by using a notification selected from a group consisting of email, instant message, message posted to a discussion group, or any combination thereof.

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38. A system for using a collaborative commerce application to provide a user with information associated with a first component that is part of a second component of a fluid processing plant, the system configured to:

display a graphical model of the second component on a display at a client site, wherein the first component is included in the graphical model, and wherein data used to display the graphical model is stored at a central site in a computer aided design format;

provide the user with the ability to select a portion of the graphical model that is associated with the first component; and

display the information associated with the first component on the display, wherein the information associated with the first component is stored at the central site.

39. The system of claim 38 wherein the graphical model is a three-dimensional graphical model.

40. The system of claim 38 wherein the information is selected from a group consisting of a graphical model, a three-dimensional graphical model, text, a bill of materials, and any combination thereof.

41. The system of claim 38 wherein the graphical model is a three-dimensional graphical model and wherein the information is a two-dimensional schematic.

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42. The system of claim 38 further configured to provide the user with the ability to edit the information.

43. The system of claim 38 further configured to provide the user with the ability to redline the information.

44. The system of claim 38 further configured to provide the user with the ability to edit the graphical model.

45. The system of claim 38 further configured to provide the user with the ability to redline the graphical model.

46. A system for using a collaborative commerce application to collaboratively review fluid processing plant designs, the system configured to:

- link at least two clients that are located in different locations using a central site;
- provide the clients with the ability to change the fluid processing plant designs using a user interface; and
- display changes that are made by one of the clients on displays of all of the clients simultaneously.

47. The system of claim 46 further configured to notify appropriate parties of changes made to the fluid processing plant designs.

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48. The system of claim 47 wherein a notification used to notify is selected from a group consisting of email, instant message, a message posted to a discussion group, and any combination thereof.

49. The system of claim 46 further configured to provide the clients with the ability to redline the fluid processing plant designs using a user interface.

50. The system of claim 49 further configured to notify appropriate parties of redlines made to the fluid processing plant designs.

51. The system of claim 49 further configured to display redlines that are made by one of the clients on the displays of all of the clients simultaneously.

52. The system of claim 46 wherein the Internet couples the clients to the central site.

53. A system for using a collaborative commerce application for searching for a particular component for use in a fluid processing plant, the system configured to:

associate the component with particular metadata attributes;

display a graphical model of the component;

allow a user to select the graphical model;

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perform a search of a component database using the metadata attributes associated with the component; and

dynamically create a search menu using the metadata attributes.

54. The system of claim 53 further configured to provide the user with the ability to search based on a basis selected from a group consisting of category, site part number, supplier part number, manufacturer part number, supplier, keyword, and any combination thereof.

55. The system of claim 53 further configured to provide the user with the ability to choose which metadata attributes to use as search criteria from the search menu.

56. The system of claim 53 further configured to display search results using fields based on metadata attributes.

57. A system for using a collaborative commerce application for performing a dynamic pricing event for a component for use in a fluid processing plant, the system configured to:

provide a requisitioner with the ability to prepare a requisition for the component;

communicate the requisition to an approver who is given the ability to approve the requisition;

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communicate the requisition to a buyer who is given the ability select a form for the dynamic pricing event, wherein the requisition was approved; and

communicate the approved requisition to bidders.

58. The system of claim 57 further configured to provide the requisitioner, the approver, and the buyer to attach files to the requisition.

59. The system of claim 57 further configured to provide the bidders with the ability to submit bids.

60. The system of claim 57 further configured to make information submitted by a particular bidder available to other bidders.

61. The system of claim 57 further configured to make limited information submitted by a particular bidder available to other bidders.

62. The system of claim 57 further configured to:

provide the approver with the ability to add notes to the requisition; and

communicate the notes together with the requisition to the buyer.

63. The system of claim 57 further configured to communicate the requisition to an approver who is given the ability to reject the requisition.

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64. The system of claim 63 further configured to:

provide the approver with the ability to specify reasons for rejecting the requisition; and communicate the reasons together with the rejection to the requisitioner.

65. The system of claim 57 further configured to determine which bidders to send requisitions based on at least one project profile.

66. The system of claim 57 wherein the form is selected from a group consisting of a request for quote, a reverse auction, or any combination thereof.

67. The system of claim 57 further configured to provide requisition change capabilities.

68. A system for using a collaborative commerce application to allow a user to certify a manufacturer for use in the procurement of materials for a fluid processing plant, the system configured to:

compile certification information at a central site;

provide the user with the ability to review the certification information; and

provide the user with the ability to select the manufacturer as a possible source of some or all of the materials.

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69. The system of claim 68 wherein the certification information is selected from the group consisting of fabrication history, code stamps, employee training records, customer satisfaction records, inspectors' notes, videos and images, quality assurance practices, and any combination thereof.

70. The system of claim 68 further configured to provide the user with the ability to request other information other than what is available at the central site.

71. The system of claim 68 further configured to display video related to the manufacturer on a display.

72. The system of claim 68 further configured to provide the user with the ability to perform searches of ongoing projects in which the manufacturer was involved such that the manufacturer's progress is seen.

73. The system of claim 68 further configured to notify the user of any quality incidents that occur at the manufacturer's facility.

74. The system of claim 68 wherein a notification used to notify is selected from a group consisting of email, instant message, message posted to a discussion group, or any combination thereof.

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